

Application No. 10/708,205
Docket No. 137229
Amendment dated August 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,530,971 to Cohen et al. (Cohen), claims 8-20 were allowed, and claims 4-7 (which depend from claim 1) were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the worn surface of the component is subject to high compression contact, the braze material and wear-resistant alloy are cobalt-base materials, and the braze material has a lower melting temperature than the wear-resistant alloy. Support for these amendments can be found in Applicants' specification at paragraphs [0001] and [0015].

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen on the basis of Cohen's disclosure of "a method of refurbishing or repairing a worn surface of a

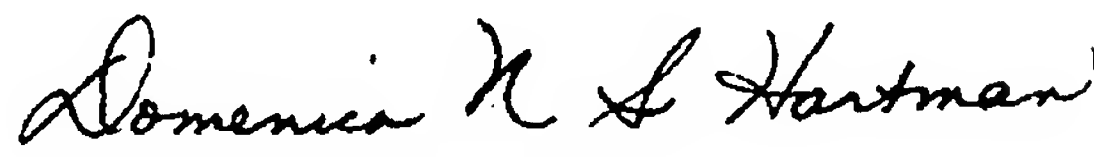
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component" with a braze alloy composition that can be in the form of a tape and comprises two powders. However, Cohen discloses nothing of the braze alloy being suitable for repairing a worn surface resulting from high compression contact. Furthermore, Cohen's braze alloy is a nickel-base braze alloy formed by combining nickel-base powders. As both of these limitations are required by amended claim 1, Applicants believe that Cohen does not anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims, and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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